

2007 WIAC Baseball Headlines

UW-Oshkosh's Stanke Selected by Los Angeles Dodgers

RELEASED: Monday, June 11, 2007

Madison, Wis.--University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh senior right-handed pitcher Cal Stanke was drafted in the 15th round of the 2007 Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft by the Los Angeles Dodgers on June 8.

Stanke, a native of Menasha, Wis. (St. Mary Central H.S.), was the 476th selection overall in this year's draft.

He is the 35th Titan to be selected in the Major League Baseball draft and third in the last four seasons. Jeremy Jirschele was picked in the 30th round by the Kansas City Royals in 2005, while Jordan Timm was a 14th round choice of the Toronto Blue Jays in 2004.

In nine appearances during the 2007 campaign, Stanke worked 34.0 innings and compiled a 3-0 record with 35 strikeouts. He had a 1.32 earned run average and opponents batted .231 against him.

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UW-Stevens Point's Zimmermann Drafted by Washington Nationals

RELEASED: Friday, June 8, 2007

Madison, Wis.--University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point junior right-handed pitcher Jordan Zimmermann was drafted in the second round of the 2007 Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft by the Washington Nationals on June 7.

A native of Auburndale, Wis., Zimmermann was the 67th player taken overall in the draft to become the highest selection from the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) since UW-Oshkosh's Jarrod Washburn was chosen 31st overall by the Anaheim Angels in 1995.

This year's draft consisted of 30 first round picks and 34 "sandwich round" choices awarded to teams which lost free agents during the off season.

Zimmermann is the first UW-Stevens Point player selected in the Major League Baseball draft since Chris Simonson was picked in the 43rd round by the Milwaukee Brewers in 1999.

A two-time WIAC Pitcher of the Year and All-America selection, Zimmermann compiled a 10-0 record with a 2.08 earned run average and 90 strikeouts in 78.0 innings pitched this season. In his 13 appearances, he struck out 10 or more batters five times, including a season-best 11 on three occasions.

In his three-year career, he logged 218.0 innings pitched in 33 appearances and registered a 20-7 record with a 2.72 earned run average and 236 strikeouts.

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UW-Stevens Point's Zimmermann and UW-Stout's Maier Earn All-America Status

RELEASED: Friday, June 1, 2007

Madison, Wis.--University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point's Jordan Zimmermann and UW-Stout's Seth Maier have been named to the 2007 NCAA Division III American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA)/Rawlings and D3baseball.com All-America Teams.

Zimmermann claimed second team status from the ABCA and third team recognition from D3baseball.com, while Maier was a third team choice from the ABCA and claimed honorable mention status from D3baseball.com.

This marks the second straight year that Zimmermann, a junior righthanded pitcher, has earned second team honors from the ABCA. The native of Auburndale, Wis., was named the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) Pitcher of the Year this season after leading the conference with 10 wins, 90 strikeouts, a .185 opponent batting average and two shutouts, while placing second with 78.0 innings pitched.

He claimed Most Outstanding Player honors at the NCAA Division III World Series this season, becoming the first individual to win the award from a team that did not reach the title game. Zimmermann struck out 10 or more batters five times during the 2007 campaign, including a season-best 11 on three occasions.

At the plate, he was 40-for-104 (.385) with 10 doubles, seven home runs, 23 runs batted in and 24 runs scored.

Maier, a senior first baseman from Park Falls, Wis., is the first ABCA All-America selection from UW-Stout since Brad O'Connell secured first team recognition in 2001.

Maier was named the WIAC Position Player of the Year after finishing second in the league with a .404 batting average, fourth with a .628 slugging percentage and fifth with a .467 on-base percentage. His 63 hits this year rank third on UW-Stout's single-season list, while his 156 at-bats are sixth. Maier owns school career records with 577 at-bats, 224 hits and 50 doubles, while placing second with 140 runs batted in and third with 137 runs scored.

The ABCA also announced an All-Midwest Region Team for the 2007 season, which included individuals representing the WIAC, Midwest Conference, Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and Upper Midwest Athletic Conference.

Joining Zimmermann and Maier on the first team were: UW-Oshkosh's Brad Demmin and Brian Gerl and UW-Stevens Point's Adam Evanoff. Zimmermann was also tabbed at the region's Pitcher of the Year for the second straight season.

Second team picks included: UW-Oshkosh's Adam Bretl, Mickey Fadness and Bryan Schwebke, UW-Platteville's Ross Bennett, UW-Stevens Point's Brandon Scheidler and Tim Schlosser and UW-Whitewater's Tom Corcoran.

UW-Oshkosh's Jason Fosler, UW-Stevens Point's Brad Archambeau and Brandon Hemstead and UW-Whitewater's Jordan Stine received third team recognition.

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UW-Stevens Point Finishes Third at NCAA Baseball Finals

RELEASED: Monday, May 28, 2007

Grand Chute, Wis.--The inconspicuous line of relief pitcher Julian Smith was lost in the wake of Emory University's victory on Monday.

The Eagles posted an 18-7 come-from-behind win, which included a 17-run outburst over two innings, over UW-Stevens Point (34-17) in an elimination game on May 28 at the NCAA Division III Baseball Championship finals at Time Warner Cable Field at Fox Cities Stadium.

The Pointers were making their second straight World Series appearance and recorded the best finish in school history with a third-place standing.

Smith's three earned runs on six hits during 3.2 innings of work doesn't scream difference-maker, but upon closer review, it was his calm under pressure after flirting with disaster on more than one occasion that ultimately kept Emory (43-9) alive in the early going.

"That was a tough, tough spot we put Julian (Smith) in early," said Emory head coach Mike Twardoski. "That he only allowed three runs in those first few innings was the key to our rally. It could have easily been six or seven runs

in the first inning, and who knows, another run in the first may have made the difference in momentum and affected whether or not we came back and won this game. It was a clutch performance.”

After Emory starter Adam Genn failed to register an out in the first inning, Smith inherited a three-run deficit and loaded the bases before ending the inning without any further damage. A solo home run in the second was followed by a perfect third frame, before he reloaded the bases in the fourth. The damage was minimal though, as the junior right-hander allowed a run on a fielder’s choice and another on a sacrifice fly, before Will Gumm entered the game to retire the final hitter of the inning.

“Coach told me to be ready the day before and I anticipated that I was going to throw at some point in the game today,” Smith said. “They had a great lineup and I just tried to stay calm and let my teammates pick me up.”

UW-Stevens Point’s Jordan Zimmermann had pushed the Pointers past Emory earlier in the tournament when he limited the Eagles to one hit, drove in a run and scored a run in a 2-0 Pointer triumph. The junior did his best to try and extend his season, as he clubbed a two-run home run over the left field wall in the first inning off Genn and followed with a nearly identical solo shot in the third frame. Zimmermann, who was 3-for-3 with three runs and three RBI, was the catalyst for UW-Stevens Point taking a 6-0 lead after four innings of play.

The lead wouldn’t make it to five innings, as the Pointers went from seemingly being in control of the contest to trailing after the Emory bats and momentum swung mightily in the sixth.

UW-Stevens Point starter Garrett Nix allowed two hits through four innings, but opened the fifth frame by allowing a walk, single and hit batsman to load the bases. Tyler Short got Emory on the board with a two-RBI single to left and after a wild pitch moved the runners up, Dan Molnar doubled home a runner. Steve Bravler walked and Joe Roth cut the lead to 6-5 with a two-RBI single to left-center field. The Pointers tried to shoot Roth as he attempted to steal second, but the throw was mishandled, allowing Bravler to score without a throw. Brandon Custer, who was preceded by another base on balls, put Emory up for good when he plated Roth with a single to right-center field.

“We never gave up as a team and we came back the right way,” Twardoski said. “We were taking pitches, getting clutch hits and forcing errors. All signs of a team that knows how to win. Baseball is game of momentum and you could feel us pushing on the door in the sixth and I really felt like it was ours for the taking after that.”

The wheels officially came off for the Pointers in the sixth inning, as a cavalcade of walks, past balls and errors led to 10 runs on four hits en route to a 17-6 Eagle advantage.

Both teams recorded 14 hits in the game, further emphasizing the Pointers’ woes, which included several wild pitches, a balk, three errors, eight walks and two hit batters.

“This was obviously far from our best game,” said UW-Stevens Point head coach Pat Bloom. “I don’t ever want to ever make excuses, but we saw a team that was mentally and emotionally exhausted and that fatigue showed through. I am really proud of these kids and what they accomplished the last few weeks. They have lifted our program to a championship level and didn’t go down without a fight.”

Roth, Molnar and Short paced the Emory offense, as all three players drove in three runs and scored three runs apiece. Gumm allowed four hits and one earned run in 2.1 innings on the mound to earn the win after relieving Smith.

Emory, which has rallied to win in 19 games this season, advanced to Tuesday’s title game against Kean University at noon on May 29.

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Pointers Fall to Kean

RELEASED: Sunday, May 27, 2007

Grand Chute, Wis.--It wasn’t one thing Kean University did right Sunday night to beat the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, it was everything they did right.

The Cougars executed in all facets of the game in a winner's bracket contest at the NCAA Division III Baseball Championship finals and converted that into a 7-4 victory over the Pointers at Time Warner Cable Field at Fox Cities Stadium. The win leaves Kean (42-8) as the lone unbeaten team left in the field, and the Cougars have to win only once on Tuesday to secure their first national championship.

"Somedays teams leave and wonder, 'How the hell did those guys beat us?'" Kean head coach Mike Ioviero said.

"We stay on these kids and try to make every little thing better because you never know when that thing is going to come up."

Kean, playing in the finals for the first time, did all the little and big things right to beat the Pointers (34-16), who will play an elimination game on Monday against Cortland State University or Emory University at 3:30 p.m.

"You have to play your best in a winner's bracket game, and I felt we didn't do that tonight," said Stevens Point head coach Pat Bloom, adding that Kean's team speed and a lack of execution by the Pointers were keys to the contest.

"All the things that don't seem like much at the time are huge factors when the game is on the line."

The Cougars started to separate themselves from Stevens Point with a pair of runs in the sixth. Four hits in the inning helped Kean extend its lead to 5-2.

Aaron Richard, who finished 2-for-5, started the inning with a single, but Pointers starter Mike Thrun retired the next two batters. Ryan Clark, who drove in a game-high three runs, then singled to center to score Richard, who had stolen second. Kevin O'Neill followed with another single, and Maikel De La Rosa then singled to score Clark to make it 5-2. O'Neill had a game-high three hits and De La Rosa went 2-for-4.

Stevens Point trimmed the lead to 5-4 in the top of the seventh. A fielding error allowed lead-off batter Brandon Scheidler to reach and Stewart Larson followed with a single to put runners at first and second.

A balk moved both runners up, and Ryan Byrnes, who led the Pointers' attack by going 2-for-4, followed with a single to left to score Scheidler. After a sacrifice bunt pushed Byrnes to second, Joel Hojnacki's sacrifice fly scored Larson to cut the advantage to a single run.

Kean came right back in its half of the seventh to pump that lead back to three runs off reliever Travis Kempf.

Derek Gianakas and Aaron Richard led off with singles, and the runners moved up to second and third on a ground out. After a walk loaded the bases, Clark grounded to shortstop Justin Bushong, but all the Pointers got was the force out at second base. Clark beat the throw to first to stay out of the double play and Gianakas scored.

The Cougars then came up with another clutch hit, as O'Neill singled to right to score Richard and push the lead back to 7-4.

Ioviero then handed the ball to closer Brandon Aich, who worked two innings of hitless relief to pick up his fourth save of the season.

"He wants the ball in the biggest, tightest situations," Ioviero said of Aich.

Colin Feneis worked seven innings, allowed six hits and only one earned run to move to 6-1 on the season. He struck out seven and walked one.

Stevens Point started the scoring in the top of the first when Tim Schlosser reached on a fielding error by the third baseman with one out. Zimmermann then stroked a double to center field to score Schlosser.

The Cougars countered in the bottom of the first with an unearned run of their own. With one out, Joseph D'Andrea reached on an infield single. The Pointers then misplayed Dan Mattonelli's ground ball to put runners at the corners. Gianakas' sacrifice fly scored D'Andrea to tie the game at 1-1.

Kean took a 2-1 lead in the third when De La Rosa started the inning with a single. After a balk and ground out moved De La Rosa to third, he scored on Mattonelli's ground out.

The Pointers tied the game at 2-2 with a run in the fourth. Jordan Zimmermann walked to start the inning, and Adam Evanoff followed with a single to put runners at the corners. Zimmermann then scored, as Brandon Scheidler grounded into a double play.

The Cougars grabbed the lead in the bottom of the fourth, with Perry Schatzow's one-out single starting the rally. Mike Shymanski followed with a double to put runners at second and third, and Clark's ground out scored Schatzow to give Kean a 3-2 advantage.

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UW-Stevens Point Remains Unbeaten

RELEASED: Saturday, May 26, 2007

Grand Chute, Wis.--UW-Stevens Point remains just one of two unbeaten teams at the 2007 NCAA Division III Baseball Championship. The Pointers rallied to a 12-8 victory on May 26 over Carthage College on soggy turf at Time Warner Cable Field at Fox Cities Stadium, snapping the Red Men's school record 20-game win streak in the process.

"We've had a lot of games this year that we won that weren't pretty," admitted UW-Stevens Point head coach Pat Bloom. "We have had the habit of digging ourselves holes and making bad mistakes early. We've shown during our tourney run that we are a resilient group, and we stayed confident tonight and got it done."

UW-Stevens Point (34-15) will now wait to play on Sunday at 7 p.m. against the winner of Saturday's late game between Chapman University (41-6) and Kean University (40-8). Meanwhile, the Red Men will lead off Sunday's action at 12 noon in an elimination game against the State University of New York-Cortland (41-6).

The top of Carthage's batting order tagged Pointers' starting pitcher Garrett Nix for three earned runs in the first inning. Nix had faced just six Red Men hitters before being relieved by Brandon Hemstead, who eventually earned the victory on the mound.

"Jumping on opposing pitchers has been something we have been really good at this year," said Carthage centerfielder Boe Baitinger, whose team was batting .352 entering the finals. "We were really focused early and hit the ball hard. I think we lost some of that focus as we got into their bullpen, and weren't able to regain it after the momentum swung in their direction."

UW-Stevens Point got back to within one in the very next frame, as Justin Bushong's two-out single bounced over the head of Carthage third baseman Tyler Yapp to plate a pair of runs. The Red Men extended their lead to 4-2 in the bottom half of the second and held it until Ryan Byrnes' double to the right-center gap in the top of the fourth knotted the score. The Pointers then gained their first lead of the game, 5-4, on Joel Hojnacki's two-out double down the left-field line two batters later.

The Pointers' bats continued to give Hemstead a solid cushion by rattling off five more runs over the course of the next two innings. Brad Archambeau's single up the middle, with the Carthage infield drawn in, scored Hojnacki to make the score 9-4.

"[Hemstead] came in and did a great job," said Carthage head coach Augie Schmidt IV. He really shut us down for a while. We had been getting all the breaks lately, and you have to be lucky and get bounces when you win 20 in a row. You could feel the momentum shift as things started to go their way. I told my team after the game that the breaks had finally gone in another team's direction."

Carthage bounced back with three runs on four hits in the sixth inning and closed the gap further with another run in the bottom of the seventh to make it 10-8. But the Pointers struck again in the eighth inning with a pair of RBI singles, while closer Matt Mehne worked to pick up his sixth save of the season.

Saturday marked the fifth time the two Wisconsin teams have met in the programs' histories. The last time was in the 1997 NCAA Division III Finals, when Bloom was a junior pitcher for the Red Men. Carthage won that second round contest 12-1. With today's win, UWSP now owns a 4-1 record over the Red Men, and it's the first time in the school's history that the Pointers have started out 2-0 in their three finals appearances (1997, 2006, 2007).

"I told our guys that Carthage is a solid program that prides itself on getting to the World Series and that we would need our best game to beat them," said Bloom. "We learned some lessons last year on what it takes to win here, and (we) are satisfied that we beat a good team and are 2-0."

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Zimmermann's One-Hit Gem Stops Emory

RELEASED: Friday, May 25, 2007

Grand Chute, Wis.--A little over two months after returning from a broken jaw, UW-Stevens Point (33-15) junior pitcher Jordan Zimmermann opened the 2007 NCAA Division III World Series with a jaw-dropping performance, leading the Pointers to a 2-0 victory over Emory University (39-9). The contest opened play at the 2007 World Series, which will unfold at Fox Cities Stadium in Appleton, Wis., over the course of the Memorial Day weekend.

The 6-2, 205-pound Zimmermann not only twirled the second one-hitter in NCAA Division III World Series history during a complete-game 10-strikeout performance, he also managed to out-hit the Eagles, going 3-for-3 with the game-winning RBI.

UW-Stevens Point head coach Pat Bloom commented on Zimmermann's performance, "Championship baseball always comes down to pitching and we have one of the best in Jordan (Zimmermann). I have seen him throw a lot of great games, but this may have been the most complete and impressive."

Emory head coach Mike Twardoski echoed Bloom's sentiments, "You have to tip your hat to their pitcher (Zimmermann), we knew that runs were going to be at a premium today and he showed why he is going to be a high draft pick. He held us to one hit and had the game-winning RBI, but he also did a good job of slowing down our running game when we had chances."

Emory entered the game with 113 stolen bases in 143 attempts, but the Pointers turned a pair of potential opportunities into outs during the game.

Emory leadoff man David Hissey was thrown out by UW-Stevens Point catcher Ben Warwick trying to steal second after Hissey was hit by a pitch in the game's first at-bat.

The Eagles' best scoring chance came in the eighth inning when they put two runners on with one out, as Brandon Custer was hit by a pitch and Bo Schill drew a walk. Zimmermann promptly picked off the runner at first base for the second out of the inning and then induced a popout in foul territory down the third-base line to end the threat.

"He (Zimmermann) has a good pickoff move, but there is never any excuse for getting picked off. The stolen base attempt was the right call, their catcher just made a perfect throw," added Twardoski.

Brad Archambeau led off the game for the Pointers by reaching base on a fielding error and came around to score when Zimmermann's double to the gap in left field rolled to the wall.

The Pointers added an insurance tally in the fourth, as Ryan Byrnes plated Zimmermann with a sacrifice fly to right field. The winning pitcher had managed to beat a throw to third base on a sacrifice bunt two batters earlier.

Frank Pfister registered Emory's lone hit in the contest, finding the hole between third base and short to open the fifth inning.

"All my pitches were working well today, especially my changeup against their lefties," said Zimmermann who continued, "This performance ranks among the best in my career. I have had a few no-hitters, but never against a team of this caliber on a stage like this."

Jason Glushon took the loss for Emory, as the senior allowed one earned run on eight hits during a complete-game effort.

Zimmermann joins Dan Olsson of Montclair State as the only other player to record a one-hitter in NCAA Division III World Series history. Olsson edged future major leaguer Terry Mulholland and his Marietta teammates in 1984.

UW-Stevens Point will face the winner of Carthage College and Eastern Connecticut State University at 4:30 p.m. on May 26.

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UW-Stevens Point Captures Second Straight Regional Title with Win Over UW-Oshkosh

RELEASED: Sunday, May 20, 2007

Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.--University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point captured its second straight NCAA Division III Baseball regional title with a 6-0 victory over UW-Oshkosh at Witter Field on May 19.

Jordan Zimmermann pitched six and one-third innings, allowing two hits and no runs, while also going three-for-five at the plate with two runs batted in to earn his second straight tournament Most Valuable Player award. Zimmermann, pitching on two day's rest, did the same in last year's title game and had 15 strikeouts to beat Ripon. He had 10 strikeouts and no walks against UW-Oshkosh to finish the tournament with 21 strikeouts and no walks in 14 and one-third innings, while improving to 9-0 for the season.

The win puts the Pointers back at Fox Cities Stadium in Appleton for Division III World Series where they will face Ferrum (Va.) or Emory (Ga.) in an opening round game at 10 a.m. on Friday. UW-Stevens Point is now 32-15 overall and defeated UW-Oshkosh for the second straight weekend after handing the Titans a 9-2 setback in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) tournament finals.

UW-Stevens Point's advancement to the World Series marks the third appearance in school history (also 1997) and fifth consecutive showing by a WIAC school in the event. The Pointers participated a year ago, while UW-Whitewater earned a spot in 2004 and 2005 and UW-Oshkosh in 2003. The Warhawks won the national championship in 2005, while the Titans secured titles in 1985 and 1994.

Zimmermann was the story of the day, striking out all three batters in the first inning and seven of the Titans' first 10 batters of the game. He also knocked in the game's first run with a two-out single to left that scored Brad Archambeau.

UW-Oshkosh had both of its hits off Zimmermann in the second inning, but he got a popup to the pitcher to end the inning. The Titans had a chance to score in the fifth when Ryan Demmin was hit by a pitch and reached third base with two outs, however, Zimmermann got a fly out to keep the 1-0 lead.

UW-Stevens Point added to its lead in the sixth when Brandon Scheidler and Stewart Larsen singled to chase reliever Jeremy Rubens, who pitched three and one-third innings in relief of starter Adam Bretl. Brad Bolton entered in relief for the Titans and Ryan Byrnes blasted his first pitch deep to left center field for a three-run homer. The Pointers tallied another run in the inning on a run-scoring single by Tim Schlosser after a two-out error.

Zimmermann hit the first batter in the seventh and then got a fielder's choice groundout before leaving the contest. Mike Thrun, who beat the Titans in last week's conference final, came on in relief and got a strikeout and popup to end the inning. Thrun, who gave up seven runs in less than two innings in the Pointers' miracle comeback win over Ripon on Friday, retired eight of the nine UW-Oshkosh batters he faced with four strikeouts.

Zimmermann added a run-scoring single in the eighth as the Pointers outhit the Titans 15-3 for the game. Larsen was three-for-four and was 10-for-16 in the regional to land all-tournament honors. The Pointers had six players with at least two hits.

UW-Oshkosh advanced to the title game against the Pointers after Mickey Fadness hit a solo home run in the bottom of the 11th inning and also tied the game with a run-scoring single with two outs in the bottom of the ninth to lift the Titans to a 5-4 win over University of St. Thomas (Minn.) earlier in the day.

UW-Oshkosh trailed 4-3 entering the final inning and had one out when pinch-hitter Andy Newbauer was hit by a pitch. Pete Berg then hit a line drive to shortstop for the second out and Bryan Schwebke followed with a ground ball to shortstop that looked to end the game, however, it took a bad hop at the edge of the infield grass and sailed over the shortstop's head. Fadness fell behind in the count 0-2 and then ripped a single back up the middle to tie the game. Jason Fosler followed with an infield single, but the Tommies' Will Montgomery worked out of the jam.

Montgomery worked four and two-thirds innings, allowing six hits and just the one run. He pitched 14 and two-thirds innings over the past three days.

UW-Oshkosh turned to Brad Bolton in the 10th inning and he stranded one Tommies' baserunner in the 10th before inducing St. Thomas' fourth double play of the game in the 11th. St. Thomas brought in senior Riley Bosch in the 11th and he retired the first two batters, including a flyout to the warning track by Schwebke before Fadness' homer to left center.

The game was scoreless until the fourth when Chris Bullis hit a run-scoring double for the Tommies and UW-Oshkosh answered with run-scoring singles by Mike Waupoose and Ryan Demmin off St. Thomas starter Erik Olson, who went five and one-third innings.

St. Thomas tied the game in the sixth on a sacrifice fly by Dan Leslie following two straight passed balls for an unearned run off Titans' starter Adam Roos, who gave up two earned runs over six and two-thirds innings. The Titans regained the lead in the bottom of the inning on a pinch-hit run-scoring single by Brock Wetenkamp.

The Tommies took the lead in the eighth following a strange development. Bullis led off the inning with a single, but then after an infield single by Leslie, rounded second base too far. UW-Oshkosh got Bullis out in a rundown and Leslie was able to make second on a close play. The Titans then ran a pickoff play at second and Leslie was safe again on a close call before Eric Fleming lined a double to put St. Thomas ahead.

Schwebke finished three-for-six for the Titans, who had 16 hits and used 19 of their 23 available players. Louie Salmen was three-for-five for the Tommies, who used 17 different players and beat the Titans 5-1 in the opening round of the tournament.

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Pointers Win Pair; Titans Hold Off Oles at NCAA Baseball Regional

RELEASED: Saturday, May 19, 2007

Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.--University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point won a pair of games, while UW-Oshkosh was victorious in its contest at the NCAA Division III Baseball Tournament Wisconsin Rapids Regional at Witter Field on May 18.

Tim Schlosser finished off a dramatic UW-Stevens Point five-run rally with a two-out, two-run single on an 0-2 pitch in the bottom of the ninth inning as the Pointers pulled out an 11-10 win over Ripon College in the opening game of the day.

The Pointers, who pounded out 18 hits in the game, opened the ninth inning with five straight hits to set up Schlosser's game-winning hit with the bases loaded. Schlosser also had two home runs and finished the day three-for-five with five RBI's. UW-Stevens Point is now 30-15 overall and faces St. Thomas on Friday night at 7 p.m. Ripon ended its season 22-15 and lost to UW-Stevens Point in the regional for the second straight year, having lost twice to the Pointers on the final day of the 2006 regional. The Red Hawks beat the Pointers twice in this year's regular season, including a 10-9 win in 12 innings that saw UW-Stevens Point score two runs in the bottom of the ninth and leave runners at second and third base.

Ripon got off to a hot start with four runs in the top of the first inning as the first three batters all singled and Bo Johnson later hit a three-run homer. The Pointers countered in the bottom of the inning with a two-run blast by Schlosser and a solo homer from Adam Evanoff.

The Red Hawks scored three more times in the top of the second to chase UW-Stevens Point starter Mike Thrun. John Dunlavy, Mac Shumann and Chevy Schultz each had a run-scoring single in the inning for a 7-3 lead. Ripon had eight of its 12 hits in the first two innings.

Dunlavy, who was three-for-five, hit a solo homer in the fourth and Chad Olson hit a solo home run in the sixth. The Red Hawks added another run on a run-scoring single by Chevy Schultz to extend their lead to 10-5 in the sixth inning. However, Schultz's hit was the only one allowed by Pointers' reliever Matt Mehne, who pitched four scoreless innings and ended up with the victory.

The Pointers had leadoff hits in six of the game's nine innings, including each of the final three. After Brandon Scheidler hit a run-scoring single in the seventh, the Pointers hit into a double play and then stranded a runner at third in the eighth.

In the dramatic ninth inning rally, Jordan Zimmermann opened with a double down the left field line and Adam Evanoff singled. Scheidler and Stewart Larsen each singled and Justin Bushong followed with another hit to drive in a run and bring the Pointers within 10-8 with the bases loaded and nobody out. Bednarek forced a popup and a lineout, but then hit Brad Archambeau to drive in a run and bring the Pointers within 10-9. He got ahead of Schlosser with two strikes, but the junior second baseman ripped a sharp grounder up the middle that made it through to easily score two runs.

Larsen had a big day for the Pointers at four-for-five. Along with Schlosser, Evanoff and Bushong were also three-for-five. Olson and Kyle McFarland each had two hits for the Red Hawks.

UW-Oshkosh escaped one jam after another in Friday's 5-4 over St. Olaf College (Minn.), but saved its best for last to reach the final day of the NCAA Division III regional tournament.

The Titans turned double plays in three consecutive innings and stranded 14 Oles' runners, including two each in the final three innings to pull out the victory and improve to 34-11 overall.

In the ninth inning, St. Olaf trailed 5-3 and had a leadoff double by Chris Terrazas. After two groundouts, Luke Gagnon hit a groundball to shortstop, but the throw was dropped by Titans' first baseman Brad Demmin, who had been hit in the eye by an errant pickoff throw earlier and left the game after the injury. Brian Astry followed with a run-scoring single to cut the lead to 5-4 and create intense moments for Titans' reliever Brian Gerl, who recorded the final out for his national-leading 11th save.

UW-Oshkosh sprinted to a quick lead with a run on a sacrifice fly by Mickey Fadness in the first inning and two runs in the second inning on a throwing error and run-scoring single by Kyle Johnson. The Titans could have extended their lead even further, but Oles' rightfielder Andrew Schmiesing threw out a runner at third base for the third out of the second inning moments before a run would have scored and gunned another runner out at the plate in the third.

The Oles, who had leadoff hits in six of nine innings, scored single runs in the fifth, sixth and seventh innings, but had opportunities for more, hitting into double plays in each inning. Terrazas was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded in the fifth, but UW-Oshkosh extended its lead to 5-1 with two runs in the bottom of the inning as Mike Waupoose had a run-scoring single and Derek Leighton hit a sacrifice fly.

Jon Wadzinski had a run-scoring single for St. Olaf in the sixth and the Oles loaded the bases with none out in the seventh, scoring only on a double play groundout. St. Olaf even had runners at second and third with two outs in the eighth, but Gerl forced Schmiesing into a groundout to escape another jam.

Cal Stanke worked five and two-thirds innings, allowing six hits and one earned run with five strikeouts for the win. Andy Dimick took the loss for St. Olaf, giving up 12 hits, but none after the fifth inning. Terrazas was three-for-four and Astry was three-for-five for the Oles. UW-Oshkosh had five players with two hits.

Sophomore Garrett Nix matched a career high with nine strikeouts and allowed just three hits over eight innings to pitch UW-Stevens Point into the NCAA Division III regional championship game with a 6-3 win over the University of St. Thomas (Minn.).

Nix struck out his nine batters in seven different innings and allowed one run, which was unearned. The victory was the Pointers' third in as many meetings against St. Thomas this season and marked their fourth straight NCAA tournament victory over the Tommies. St. Thomas is now 34-11 and plays UW-Oshkosh at noon on Saturday with the winner to play UW-Stevens Point for the regional title at 3:30 p.m. The Pointers are 31-15 overall and in the regional finals for the fourth time in six years.

The Pointers, who scored five runs in the bottom of the ninth to pull out a dramatic 11-10 win over Ripon earlier in the day, carried their momentum into the top of the first inning against St. Thomas as Brad Archambeau led off with a walk and Tim Schlosser doubled. Both scored on groundouts as the Pointers took an early 2-0 lead.

UW-Stevens Point added single runs in each of the next three innings as Justin Bushong had a run-scoring double in the second, Jordan Zimmermann led off the third with a home run and Schlosser scored on a two-out throwing error in the fourth for a 5-0 advantage.

Meanwhile, Nix retired the first seven batters faced and ran into trouble in only one inning when the Tommies tallied an unearned run in the fifth. After a two-out error put two runners on base, Nix hit batters on consecutive pitches with Matt Olson driving in a run. He then struck out Chris Bullis looking with an inside fastball on a 3-2 pitch to escape the jam.

Tommies' reliever Will Montgomery shut down the Pointers the rest of the way, allowing just four hits and one earned run over seven innings in relief of Lonnie Robinson. Brad Archambeau, who finished two-for-five, drove in a run for the Pointers with a single in the eighth to give UW-Stevens Point a 6-1 lead.

St. Thomas mounted a rally against Pointers' closer Matt Mehne in the ninth, getting singles from Tom Wippler and Mark Boland to start the inning. Pinch-hitter Bobby Gregoire had a run-scoring single and another run scored following a two-out error to bring the tying run to the plate, but Mehne retired Bullis on a groundout to end the game.

Zimmermann was two-for-five for the Pointers, who totaled eight hits. Wippler was two-for-four for the Tommies.

#####

UW-Oshkosh Avoids Elimination; UW-Stevens Point Falls to St. Olaf

RELEASED: Thursday, May 17, 2007

Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.--University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh avoided elimination from the 2007 NCAA Division III Baseball Tournament with an 11-5 victory over College of St. Scholastica, while UW-Stevens Point lost to St. Olaf College (Minn.), 7-3, at the Wisconsin Rapids regional at Witter Field on May 16.

UW-Oshkosh advances to play St. Olaf College (Minn.) at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, while UW-Stevens Point will face Ripon College at noon.

Two-run home runs by Sam Spurney and Mickey Fadness vaulted UW-Oshkosh (33-11) to an early lead in the win over the College of St. Scholastica (Minn.) and eliminate the Saints from regional competition.

Spurney hit his blast in a three-run second inning and Fadness cleared the fence in a three-run third to give the Titans a 6-0 lead.

The College of St. Scholastica (36-8), which had one hit over the first four innings, opened the fifth with four straight singles from the bottom four batters in the order. Steve Gerten hit a run scoring single and Keith Ritsche scored on a wild pitch to cut its deficit to 6-2. The Saints were threatening for more runs with the bases loaded with none out, but UW-Oshkosh closer Brian Gerl entered the game and forced a ground out and two short fly outs to limit the Saints to just one more run and keep the Titans' lead at 6-3.

The teams traded runs in the sixth as the Titans' Kyle Kannenberg hit a solo home run and Gerten added a run scoring single in the bottom of the inning, but the College of St. Scholastica stranded two more runners to trail 7-4.

UW-Oshkosh blew open the game with a three-run seventh inning following a two-out Saints' error. Fadness, Mike Waupoose and Ryan Demmin all had run-scoring singles in the inning.

The College of St. Scholastica had four errors in the game and ended with 10 errors in its two tournament games after committing just 41 in its first 42 games of the year.

Fadness was three-for-four at the plate while Jason Fosler was two-for-four with four runs scored for the Titans. Waupoose finished two-for-three at the plate with two runs batted in.

Ritsche, who pitched the final four and two-thirds innings in relief of starter Mark Erickson, led the Saints at three-for-four at the plate. Sean Tracy, Seth Engberg and Gerten were all two-for-four as the College of St. Scholastica's top four hitters in the lineup were a combined 0-for-17.

Gerl (5-3) pitched five innings and allowed five hits and two runs with three strikeouts to earn the victory. Jeremy Rubens pitched the first four innings for the Titans before being replaced by Cal Stanke.

St. Olaf (33-9) jumped out to a quick lead on UW-Stevens Point (29-15) and hung on for a 7-3 victory with the tying run at the plate in the ninth inning.

The Oles, who were no-hit in their opening game on Wednesday, got a two-run homer from Chris Terrazas in the first inning and a three-run blast from Josh Schultheis for an early 6-1 lead. St. Olaf then rode the arm of Paul Johnson, who threw eight-plus innings and worked out of several jams. Johnson allowed a hit and a walk to the first two batters in the ninth, but Todd Mathison came on to get a game-ending double play. Johnson allowed eight hits and two earned runs while striking out eight.

After their no-hit outing in the first game, St. Olaf's second batter of the game, Carson Jones, lined a triple off the center field fence to spark the Oles' offense. After a strikeout, Terrazas homered to left field for the early lead.

The Pointers' Jordan Zimmermann drove in a run with a double in the third following an Oles' error and UW-Stevens Point had runners on second and third with one out, but Johnson was able to wiggle out of the threat.

St. Olaf then took advantage of four Pointers' walks in the bottom of the third and got a run-scoring fielder's choice by Terrazas before Schultheis cleared the fence in left field for a 6-1 lead.

Pointers' starter Brandon Hemstead allowed six runs in two and one-third innings before Travis Kempf and Jeremy Dunning finished up by allowing no earned runs over five and two-thirds innings to give the Pointers a chance at a comeback. Kempf worked out of several jams himself, stranding the bases loaded in the third and fifth and two runners in the sixth. Both teams left 11 runners on base as the Pointers stranded runners in every inning but the seventh.

The Pointers scored one run in the eighth on a run-scoring groundout by Justin Bushong, but left another runner at third base and trailed 7-2 entering the ninth. They scored one run when a potential game-ending double play ball hit by Adam Evanoff was mishandled, leaving the bases loaded with one out for Brandon Scheidler, who grounded to second base and was called out on a close play at first.

Stewart Larsen and Joel Hojnacki each had two hits for the Pointers, while Jones was three-for-four for the Oles. Terrazas and Josh Maus also had two hits apiece.

#####

Pointers Win, Titans Fall in Opening Round of NCAA Baseball Regional

RELEASED: Thursday, May 17, 2007

Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.--University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point defeated College of St. Scholastica (Minn.), 11-3, while UW-Oshkosh fell to the University of St. Thomas (Minn.), 5-1, in the opening round of the NCAA Division III Baseball Tournament regional at Witter Field on May 16.

In the Pointers' victory, winning pitcher Jordan Zimmermann had 11 strikeouts and no walks in eight innings and hit a leadoff home run to spark a six-run seventh inning and break a 3-3 tie as the top-seeded Pointers improved to 29-14 for the season. Sixth-seeded St. Scholastica had a six-game winning streak snapped and fell to 36-7 for the year. Nine of the Pointers' 11 runs were unearned as the Saints committed a season-high six errors.

UW-Stevens Point will now play St. Olaf College (Minn.) on Thursday at 3:30 p.m., while St. Scholastica will play either UW-Oshkosh on Thursday at noon in an elimination game.

The Pointers scored single runs in each of the first three innings, but left five runners on base, including four in scoring position. St. Scholastica had a solo home run by Kyle Wojtysiak in the third and tied the game on a two-run blast by Mike Lewis in the fourth.

Zimmermann took over from that point, retiring his final 13 batters faced before departing after eight innings. The two-time Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference pitcher of the year allowed five hits in improving to 8-0 for the season.

St. Scholastica starter Mark Moriarty escaped another jam when UW-Stevens Point had runners on second and third with one out in the fifth. He finished with seven strikeouts and allowed six hits over five innings before giving way to Adian Kummet in the sixth.

Kummet retired the side in the sixth and allowed the home run to Zimmermann in the seventh before the Saints' defense collapsed. The Pointers scored five more runs on just one hit and two errors in the inning. Joel Hojnacki drove in a run on a fielder's choice when Adam Evanoff beat a throw home from shortstop. Justin Bushong then laid down a squeeze bunt that was dropped at first base and allowed two runs to score for a 7-3 lead.

Brandon Scheidler finished four-for-five and Evanoff was two-for-four for the Pointers, who have now won eight straight games. Brandon Swartz was two-for-four for St. Scholastica, which surrendered a season-high run total.

In the UW-Oshkosh's opening contest, Bryan Johnson hit a two-run home run and Eric Fleming a two-run single as the University of St. Thomas (Minn.) emerged with a 5-1 victory over the Titans.

The Titans left nine on base, six in scoring position. They managed just one run with three doubles and a homer. The Tommies scored all five runs off two UW-Oshkosh relievers.

Riley Bosch got the win in relief for St. Thomas as he pitched 5 and two-third innings and allowed just five hits and one run. Jake Kraemer gave the Tommies a huge lift as he started his first game in eight weeks and threw 3 and one-third scoreless innings.

UW-Oshkosh starter Adam Bretl limited the Tommies to three hits and no runs over the first four innings before Brad Bolton took over a scoreless game in the fifth.

In the top of the fifth inning, the Titans had runners at first and third with none out against Bosch, but failed to score. The University of St. Thomas got a two-out single from Louie Salmen and then No. 9 hitter Bryan Johnson drilled a home run to right field off Bolton for a 2-0 lead.

The Titans closed to within 2-1 in the eighth as Jason Fosler hit a two-out, solo home run, but the Tommies extended their lead with three runs on three hits in the bottom of the inning, including a two-run single by Eric Fleming.

Bosch set the Titans down in order in the ninth to finish a game that lasted just one hour and 53 minutes and improve to 7-3 for the season. Despite the outstanding pitching performances, the University of St. Thomas struck out just once and UW-Oshkosh struck out only three times.

Fleming was two-for-four for the Tommies, while Pete Berg was two-for-three and Fosler two-for-four for the Titans. UW-Oshkosh's Bryan Schwebke went hitless in four at bats to end his 22-game hitting streak.

#####

UW-Stevens Point's Zimmermann and UW-Stout's Maier Headline All-WIAC Baseball Team; UW-Oshkosh's Lechnir Named Coach of the Year

RELEASED: Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Madison, Wis.--University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point's Jordan Zimmermann was named the Pitcher of the Year and UW-Stout's Seth Maier the Position Player of the Year to headline the 20 individuals selected to the 2007 All-Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) Baseball Team by the league coaches. UW-Oshkosh head coach Tom Lechnir was voted the Coach of the Year.

Zimmermann, a junior righthanded pitcher, secured the pitcher of the year honor for the second straight season, becoming the first individual in league history win the prize in back-to-back years. He leads the WIAC with a .215 opponent batting average, while ranking second with a 2.47 earned run average, 59 strikeouts and seven wins, seventh with two saves and eighth with 54.2 innings pitched.

Zimmermann's seven wins rank third on UW-Stevens Point's single-season list, while his 59 strikeouts are sixth. He has allowed just seven extra-base hits (five doubles, two home runs) and struck out a season-high 11 batters against UW-Stout on April 18 and UW-Oshkosh on April 28.

Maier, a senior first baseman, earned first team recognition for the third straight season and fourth time in his career. He was also recognized in 2003 and becomes the fourth player in school history to earn all-WIAC first team honors four years, joining Matt Barnard (1989-92), Greg Osterhaus (1992-95) and Duane Ruff (1980-83). This year, Maier ranks second in the conference with a .404 batting average, third with 98 total bases, fourth with a .628 slugging percentage, fifth with 63 hits and seven home runs and seventh with a .467 on-base percentage.

He hit safely in 38 of the Blue Devils' 40 games and compiled 18 multi-hit performances, including seven three-hit games and had a 21-game hitting streak to start the season. Maier's 63 hits rank third on the school's single-season list, while his 156 at-bats are sixth. He owns school career records with 577 at-bats, 224 hits and 50 doubles, while placing second with 140 runs batted in and third with 137 runs scored.

Maier is the second player in Blue Devil history to receive the league's position player of the year honor, joining Brad O'Connell in 2001.

Repeat selections on this year's first team include: UW-La Crosse's Andy Podmolik, UW-Oshkosh's Bryan Schwebke, UW-Platteville's Ross Bennett, UW-Stevens Point's Adam Evanoff and UW-Whitewater's Jordan Stine.

Podmolik, a senior outfielder, earned first team status for the third straight season after receiving honorable mention accolades in 2004. He ranks third in the WIAC with three triples and sixth with 12 stolen bases. Podmolik finished his career as UW-La Crosse's leader with 602 at-bats, 221 hits, 139 runs scored and 58 stolen bases, while placing second with 39 doubles and nine triples.

Schwebke, a senior outfielder, leads the league with 49 runs scored, 10 home runs, 17 doubles, four triples, 120 total bases, 207 plate appearances and a .686 slugging percentage, while ranking second with 175 at-bats, fourth with 65 hits and ninth with a .371 batting average. He is currently riding a 22-game hitting streak – the seventh-longest in conference history. Schwebke was a first team selection a year ago after earning honorable mention status during the 2004 campaign.

Bennett, a junior first baseman, claimed first team honors for the second straight season. He ranks second in the WIAC with nine home runs, .678 slugging percentage and .497 on-base percentage, third with three triples, fourth with 44 runs scored, fifth with 97 total bases, seventh with 11 stolen bases and ninth with 37 runs batted in. Bennett holds UW-Platteville career records with 149 hits, 114 runs scored, 112 runs batted in, 23 home runs and 265 total bases.

Evanoff, a senior firstbaseman/catcher, earned first team recognition for the second consecutive year. He leads the conference with 68 hits, while placing second with nine home runs, 175 at-bats, 109 total bases and 206 plate appearances, fourth with a .389 batting average and 43 runs batted in, fifth with a .623 slugging percentage and .473 on-base percentage, sixth with 24 walks and eighth with 42 runs scored.

Stine, a sophomore outfielder, tops the league with a .500 on-base percentage and is third with a .400 batting average and .636 slugging percentage. He was also a first selection a season ago.

Additional first team selections this year include: UW-La Crosse's Storm Gram, UW-Oshkosh's Adam Bretl, Brad Demmin, Mickey Fadness, Jason Fosler and Brian Gerl, UW-Stevens Point's Ryan Byrnes, Brandon Hemstead and Tim Schlosser, UW-Stout's Rob Heller and Erik Johnson and UW-Whitewater's Tom Corcoran and Jeff Donovan.

Named to the honorable mention team were: UW-La Crosse's Ross Benitz, UW-Oshkosh's Adam Roos, UW-Platteville's Scott Dybevik, UW-Stevens Point's Brad Archambeau and Brandon Scheidler, UW-Stout's Matt Doornink, Matt Krause and Mike White, UW-Superior's Ryan Leer and UW-Whitewater's Greg Harder, Mike Jacobson and Billy Johnson.

UW-Oshkosh head coach Tom Lechnir directed the Titans to their league-leading 28th WIAC regular season championship and first since 1999. The Titans also earned the 23rd NCAA Division III tournament bid in program history. Lechnir claimed the coach of the year honor for the third time in his career after receiving the award in 1998 and 1999. He is in his 19th season in charge of the Titans and is the conference's all-time winningest coach with a 592-192-1 overall record (.755 winning percentage).

2007 All-WIAC Baseball Team

First Team

Name, School, Year, Position, Hometown (High School)
Ross Bennett, Platteville, Junior, Firstbase, Mequon (Homestead)
Adam Bretl, Oshkosh, Senior, Righthanded Pitcher, Sturgeon Bay (Southern Door)
Ryan Byrnes, Stevens Point, Senior, Outfield, Beaver Dam
Tom Corcoran, Whitewater, Junior, Outfield/Designated Hitter, Rochester, Minn.
Brad Demmin, Oshkosh, Sophomore, Firstbase, Oshkosh (North)
Jeff Donovan, Whitewater, Freshman, Outfield, Wauwatosa
Adam Evanoff, Stevens Point, Senior, Firstbase/Catcher, Plover (SPASH)
Mickey Fadness, Oshkosh, Sophomore, Secondbase/Catcher, Eau Claire (Memorial)
Jason Fosler, Oshkosh, Sophomore, Outfield, DeForest
Brian Gerl, Oshkosh, Senior, Righthanded Pitcher, Manawa (Little Wolf)
Storm Gram, La Crosse, Sophomore, Secondbase, Woodbury, Minn.
Rob Heller, Stout, Senior, Righthanded Pitcher, La Crosse (Central)
Brandon Hemstead, Stevens Point, Junior, Righthanded Pitcher, DeForest
Erik Johnson, Stout, Junior, Rightfield, La Crosse (Central)
Seth Maier, Stout, Senior, Firstbase, Park Falls
Andy Podmolik, La Crosse, Senior, Outfield, Phillips
Tim Schlosser, Stevens Point, Junior, Secondbase, Oconomowoc
Bryan Schwebke, Oshkosh, Senior, Outfield, Oshkosh (West)
Jordan Stine, Whitewater, Sophomore, Outfield, Merrill
Jordan Zimmermann, Stevens Point, Junior, Righthanded Pitcher, Auburndale

Honorable Mention

Brad Archambeau, Stevens Point, Freshman, Outfield, Watertown
Ross Benitz, La Crosse, Sophomore, Righthanded Pitcher, Osceola
Matt Doornink, Stout, Sophomore, Righthanded Pitcher, Cottage Grove, Minn.
Scott Dybevik, Platteville, Senior, Outfield, Madison (La Follette)
Greg Harder, Whitewater, Junior, Shortstop, Waukesha (West)
Mike Jacobson, Whitewater, Junior, Lefthanded Pitcher, Oak Creek
Billy Johnson, Whitewater, Junior, Secondbase, Kenosha (Tremper)
Matt Krause, Stout, Junior, Catcher, Bonduel
Ryan Leer, Superior, Freshman, Centerfield, Minnetonka, Minn.
Adam Roos, Oshkosh, Senior, Righthanded Pitcher, Thunder Bay, Ontario
Brandon Scheidler, Stevens Point, Junior, Outfield, Chippewa Falls (McDonell)
Mike White, Stout, Junior, Shortstop, Rochester, Minn. (Marshall)

Position Player of the Year: Seth Maier of Stout
Pitcher of the Year: Jordan Zimmermann of Stevens Point
Max Sparger Scholar-Athlete: Reed Coil of Superior
Coach of the Year: Tom Lechnir of Oshkosh

#####

UW-Superior's Coil Named Baseball Scholar-Athlete

RELEASED: Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Madison, Wis.--University of Wisconsin-Superior's Reed Coil has been named the 2007 Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) Max Sparger Baseball Scholar-Athlete.

Coil, a senior from Bovey, Minn., is majoring in industrial designed-history and carries a 3.29 grade point average. He is a two-time member of the WIAC Scholastic Honor Roll and been recognized on UW-Superior's Dean's List five semesters.

Coil pitched a team-leading 60.0 innings this season and also led UW-Superior with a 4.80 earned run average, 10 starting assignments and 40 strikeouts.

He is the second individual in school history to win the conference's baseball scholar-athlete award, joining Jason Miller who won the award in 1992.

The WIAC Scholar-Athlete Award is named after Max Sparger and sponsored by Hewlett-Packard. Sparger served as commissioner of the Wisconsin State University Conference from July, 1971 - July, 1993.

In order to be nominated for the scholar-athlete award, a student-athlete must have a minimum 3.25 grade point average, be in their last year of competition, or on schedule to graduate this academic year, and have competed for a minimum of two years.

#####

UW-Oshkosh and UW-Stevens Point Receive NCAA Baseball Bids

RELEASED: Monday, May 14, 2007

Madison, Wis.--University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and UW-Stevens Point received bids into the 2007 NCAA Division III Baseball Championship and will participate in regional competition at Witter Field in Wisconsin Rapids, Wis. on May 16-19. The regional event will be hosted by UW-Stevens Point.

UW-Stevens Point received an automatic bid into the 53-team field by winning the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) Tournament title for the third straight season. UW-Oshkosh claimed one of 14 at-large bids into the national event. The Titans won the WIAC regular season championship for the 28th time in program history this year.

The Pointers are making the ninth NCAA tournament appearance in school history, while the Titans are in the national field for the 23rd time. UW-Oshkosh claimed NCAA Division III national titles in 1985 and 1994.

NCAA Division III Wisconsin Rapids Regional
at Witter Field, May 16-19

Wednesday, May 16

Game 1-UW-Stevens Point (28-14) vs. College of St. Scholastica (Minn.) (36-6), Noon

Game 2-University of St. Thomas (Minn.) (32-10) vs. UW-Oshkosh (32-10), 3:30 p.m.

Game 3-Ripon College (21-13) vs. St. Olaf College (Minn.) (31-8), 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 17

Game 4-Loser Game 1 vs. Loser Game 2, Noon

Game 5-Winner Game 1 vs. Loser Game 3, 3:30 p.m.

Game 6-Winner Game 2 vs. Winner Game 3, 7 p.m.

*(if the winner of Game 1 wins Game 5, the following Friday-Saturday schedule will be used):

Friday, May 18

Game 7-Winner Game 5 vs. Winner Game 6, Noon
Game 8-Winner Game 4 vs. Loser Game 6, 3:30 p.m.
Game 9-Loser Game 7 vs. Winner Game 8, 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 19

Game 10-Winner Game 7 vs. Winner Game 9, Noon
Game 11-if necessary, 3:30 p.m.
*(if the winner of Game 1 loses Game 5, the following Friday schedule will be used):

Friday, May 18

Game 7-Loser Game 5 vs. Loser Game 6, Noon
Game 8-Winner Game 4 vs. Winner Game 5, 3:30 p.m.
Game 9-Winner Game 6 vs. Winner Game 7, 7 p.m.
*(if the winner of Game 6 wins Game 9, the following Saturday schedule will be used):

Saturday, May 19

Game 10-Winner Game 8 vs. Winner Game 9, Noon
Game 11-if necessary, 3:30 p.m.
*(if the winner of Game 6 loses Game 9, the following Saturday schedule will be used):

Saturday, May 19

Game 10-Winner Game 8 vs. Loser Game 9, Noon
Game 11-Winner Game 9 vs. Winner Game 10, 3:30 p.m.

#####

UW-Stevens Point Wins Third Straight Baseball Tournament Title

RELEASED: Saturday, May 12, 2007

Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.--University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point won its third straight Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) baseball tournament title with a 9-2 victory over UW-Oshkosh at Witter Field on May 12.

The tournament crown for the Pointers is the sixth in program history and also gave them the conference's automatic bid into the NCAA Division III Tournament.

UW-Stevens Point went 3-0 in the WIAC tournament for just the second time since the event went to a double-elimination format in 2001. UW-Stevens Point also finished 3-0 in 2002.

Mike Thrun earned the victory in the title game for the second straight year, pitching eight strong innings while allowing five hits and two runs. He finished with five strikeouts, including all three batters in the eighth inning. Travis Kempf recorded the final three outs of the game.

The Pointers outthit the Titans 17-5, but didn't score until Stewart Larsen had a run-scoring single in the fourth. UW-Stevens Point put up four runs in the fifth as the Titans had three wild pitches and Adam Evanoff, Brandon Scheidler and Larsen all delivered run-scoring singles.

UW-Oshkosh's Bryan Schwebke answered with a solo homer in the sixth, but the Pointers came back with a run in the bottom of the inning on a run-scoring double by Tim Schlosser. Brad Archambeau homered to lead off the eighth and Jordan Zimmermann and Scheidler each added run-scoring singles to finish the scoring.

Archambeau, Schlosser and Scheidler each had three hits for the Pointers, while Brad Demmin had two hits to lead UW-Oshkosh.

Adam Roos took the loss for the Titans to fall to 5-2 on the season.

#####

UW-Oshkosh Captures Baseball Championship

RELEASED: Saturday, April 28, 2007

Stevens Point, Wis.--University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh captured the 2007 Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) baseball championship with a thrilling 14-13 victory in 11 innings over UW-Stevens Point in the second game of a doubleheader on April 28.

The conference title for the Titans is their league-leading 28th in school history and first since 1999. UW-Oshkosh earned the top seed for the four-team WIAC Tournament, which will be held at Witter Field in Wisconsin Rapids, Wis. on May 11-13.

UW-Oshkosh is 25-7 overall and 19-3 in the WIAC, while UW-Stevens Point is 20-13 overall and 12-5 in the league.

UW-Stevens Point appeared to be in control of the second game with a 5-1 lead in the sixth and Mike Thrun cruising along on the mound. Adam Evanoff hit a three-run homer in the first and a Titans' error led to two runs in the fourth. However, UW-Oshkosh struck for four runs after two outs and nobody on base in the sixth, taking advantage of two Pointers' errors to tie the game.

Stewart Larsen broke the tie with a three-run homer off Titans' ace reliever Brian Gerl in the seventh, but UW-Oshkosh responded in the eighth when Mike Waupoose launched a pinch-hit grand slam for a 9-8 lead. The Pointers forced extra innings as Zimmermann blasted a solo home run deep to left field with one out in the ninth.

UW-Oshkosh capitalized on two more UW-Stevens Point errors in the 11th and took the lead on a run-scoring single by Mickey Fadness before breaking out for five runs in the inning.

The Pointers responded with four runs in the bottom of the frame. Evanoff homered to lead off the inning, Bushong had a run-scoring infield single and Brad Archambeau delivered a two-run double to put runners at second and third. However, Gerl forced a groundout to end the three-hour, 16-minute game.

UW-Stevens Point had 19 runs and scored eight runs in six innings off Gerl, who had only allowed four earned runs in 39 and two-thirds innings this season. Archambeau was four-for-seven, while Bushong was three-for-seven and Zimmermann was three-for-six. Six of UW-Oshkosh's 14 runs were unearned as the Pointers had five errors.

#####

UW-Whitewater Receives Baseball Preseason Nod

RELEASED: Tuesday, March 13, 2007

Madison, Wis.--Four-time defending champion, UW-Whitewater is the preseason favorite to win the 2007 Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) baseball championship, according to the league's sports information directors.

The Warhawks, who have won six of the last seven regular-season titles, received four first-place votes in the preseason predictions. Entering the season ranked No. 12 nationally in the American Baseball Coaches Association NCAA Division III preseason poll, the Warhawks have made five NCAA postseason appearances in the last seven years, including a national title during the 2005 campaign. UW-Whitewater has registered four consecutive seasons of 30-plus victories.

Junior Greg Harder was the third most difficult player to strike out in Division III a year ago for a squad that ranked No. 26 nationally in runs scored per game (8.3). This year's team will also benefit from the addition of transfers Kale Olson (Creighton), Jake Wasechek (Illinois-Chicago) and Kevin Zalniss (Illinois-Chicago).

UW-Stevens Point captured the remaining three first-place votes in the conference predictions and is expected to place second in the seven-team derby. The Pointers, ranked No. 5 nationally, are coming off their first NCAA

Division III World Series appearance since 1997, placing fifth. They have won two consecutive WIAC tournament titles and last won the regular season championship in 2002.

UW-Stevens Point has led Division III in home runs the past two years, hitting 73 in 2006 (1.38 per game) and 93 in 2005 (1.90 per game). The Pointers won 10 straight games last season when facing elimination, losing their first game at the WIAC tournament, NCAA regional and NCAA World Series. Junior Jordan Zimmerman secured WIAC Pitcher of the Year honors last year and is ranked No. 43 on *Baseball America's* top college draft prospects for the 2007 season.

UW-Oshkosh has won 27-plus games in 15 of the last 16 seasons and is in pursuit of its first WIAC championship since 1999. The Titans return four of their top-five hitters from 2006, including Bryan Schwebke, who is the lone position player of senior status. He has started 114 of the 123 games that he has played in. Head coach Tom Lechnir is the winningest coach in WIAC history with 559 career victories.

UW-La Crosse won 11 of its final 15 games last year and their nine-game winning streak last season was the longest since 1982. Senior Andy Podmolik had a 17-game hitting streak a year ago after registering an 18-game streak in 2005. The Eagles' pitching staff will be bolstered by the addition of transfers Justin Sokol (Texas A&M) and Luke Zurbriggen (Iowa). Sokol was a 17th round draft pick of the San Diego Padres in 2003, while Zurbriggen is the younger brother of former Eagle Matt, who is the school's career leader in innings pitched and ranks second in career wins.

UW-Stout's 18 overall victories a year ago matched the total from the 2005 campaign, while the 11 WIAC triumphs were the most since the 2002 squad had 13. The Blue Devils' seven-game winning streak last season matched the high from 2005 and was the longest since an eight-game run in 2001. UW-Stout returns its entire outfield and senior Seth Maier, a three-time All-WIAC first team selection.

Eric Frese begins his first year as head coach at UW-Platteville after spending the last eight seasons at Clarke College (Iowa) and leaving as the school's all-time winningest coach. The Pioneers will open their new Kendall Murray Field on March 27 against University of Dubuque (Iowa). Junior Ross Bennett set school records with 10 home runs and 42 RBIs during the 2006 campaign and junior Gabe Neitzel tied a Division III record with two triples in an inning against UW-Superior on April 9, 2006.

UW-Superior welcomes Eddy Morgan as its new head coach. He spent the last nine seasons as an assistant coach at the College of St. Scholastica (Minn.) and helped the team to three NCAA tournament appearances.

Team Vitals

UW-La Crosse

Head Coach: Chris Schwarz, 3rd season, 34-46-1 record at UW-La Crosse / 34-46-1 overall

Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 14/15

Starting Position Players Returning/Lost: 2/7

Pitchers with Starting Experience Returning/Lost: 3/3

Pitchers with Saves Returning/Lost: 1/1

Returning All-WIAC: Andy Podmolik, Sr., OF (2004-HM, 2005-First, 2006-First)

UW-Oshkosh

Head Coach: Tom Lechnir, 19th season, 559-182-1 record at UW-Oshkosh / 559-182-1 overall

Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 17/10

Starting Position Players Returning/Lost: 7/2

Pitchers with Starting Experience Returning/Lost: 6/6

Pitchers with Saves Returning/Lost: 4/2

Returning All-WIAC: Bryan Schwebke, Sr., OF (2004-HM, 2006-First); Adam Bretl, Sr., RHP (2006-HM);

Mickey Fadness, So., C (2006-HM); Adam Roos, Sr., RHP (2006-HM)

UW-Platteville

Head Coach: Eric Frese, 9th season (1st at UWP), 0-0 record at UW-Platteville / 135-201-1 overall

Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 20/9

Starting Position Players Returning/Lost: 4/6

Pitchers with Starting Experience Returning/Lost: 3/3

Pitchers with Saves Returning/Lost: 1/0

Returning All-WIAC: Ross Bennett, Jr., Util. (2006-First)

UW-Stevens Point

Head Coach: Pat Bloom, 4th season, 98-45 record at UW-Stevens Point / 98-45 overall

Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 19/6

Starting Position Players Returning/Lost: 6/3

Pitchers with Starting Experience Returning/Lost: 4/1

Pitchers with Saves Returning/Lost: 1/0

Returning All-WIAC: Jordan Zimmermann, Jr., RHP (2005-HM, 2006-Pitcher of the Year); Adam Evanoff, Sr., 1B (2006-First); Doug Coe, Sr., C (2006-HM); Ryan Hopkins, Sr., RHP (2006-HM); Tim Schlosser, Jr., 3B (2005-HM)

UW-Stout

Head Coach: Craig Walter, 13th season (6th at UWS), 73-118 record at UW-Stout / 216-242 overall

Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 18/8

Starting Position Players Returning/Lost: 8/0

Pitchers with Starting Experience Returning/Lost: 6/4

Pitchers with Saves Returning/Lost: 1/0

Returning All-WIAC: Seth Maier, Sr., 1B (2003-First, 2005-First, 2006-First); Matt Krause, Jr., C (2006-First); Tim Schneider, Jr., OF (2006-First); Luke Schultz, Sr., SS (2006-HM)

UW-Superior

Head Coach: Eddy Morgan, 1st season

Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 14/12

Starting Position Players Returning/Lost: 3/6

Pitchers with Starting Experience Returning/Lost: 3/3

Pitchers with Saves Returning/Lost: 0/0

Returning All-WIAC: Billy Tafs, Jr., OF (2006-HM)

UW-Whitewater

Head Coach: John Vodenlich, 6th season (4th at UWW), 114-30 record at UW-Whitewater / 143-70 overall

Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 20/3

Starting Position Players Returning/Lost: 8/2

Pitchers with Starting Experience Returning/Lost: 4/2

Pitchers with Saves Returning/Lost: 2/2

Returning All-WIAC: Adam Dominick, Jr., RHP (2006-First); Mike Jacobson, Jr., LHP (2006-First); Ben Prather, Jr., Util. (2006-First); Jordan Stine, So., OF (2006-First)

2007 Preseason Poll (Voted on by WIAC Sports Information Directors)

Rank, School, 2006 Record

1. (4) UW-Whitewater (30-14, 17-7)
2. (3) UW-Stevens Point (35-18, 14-9)
3. UW-Oshkosh (27-15, 16-8)
4. UW-La Crosse (22-19, 15-9)
5. UW-Stout (16-21, 11-11)
6. UW-Platteville (19-19, 8-13)
7. UW-Superior (3-35, 0-24)

()--First-place votes

UW-Stevens Point's Bloom Earns 100th Career Win

RELEASED: Tuesday, March 6, 2007

Madison, Wis.--University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point head baseball coach Pat Bloom earned his 100th career win in the Pointers' 7-6 victory over College of St. Scholastica (Minn.) on March 5 at the Metrodome in Minneapolis, Minn.

Bloom is in his fourth season with the Pointers and owns a career record of 100-45 (.690 winning percentage). He guided the squad to the WIAC tournament titles in 2005 and 2006 and a school record 38 wins in 2005.

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UW-Oshkosh, Lawrence University Recommended To Host NCAA Division III Baseball Championship Through 2009

RELEASED: Friday, October 13, 2006

Oshkosh, Wis.--Organizers of the NCAA Division III Baseball Championship swung for the fences when they submitted a bid in July to retain the tournament.

It's time to show off those home run trots.

An article on the NCAA web site on Monday (Oct. 9) said Grand Chute has been recommended to receive a new two-year bid that will keep the annual event - a mainstay since 2000 - at Fox Cities Stadium through 2009.

Word of the extension will be announced after the expected approval of the Division III Management Council next week.

"Speaking for the whole committee, we're very delighted," said Rick Fantini, president of the local organizing committee. "We truly wanted to keep it here, and I think we have a very good thing going for our fans and the overall community."

The NCAA Division III Championships Committee recommended the Grand Chute bid after meeting in September.

The extension means the eight-team, double-elimination tournament, co-hosted by UW-Oshkosh and Lawrence University, will have been held at Fox Cities Stadium for 10 straight years upon completion of this bid.

Only Marietta, Ohio, which hosted the event for 12 years from 1976-87, has enjoyed a longer tenure.

The tournament has a paid attendance average of 20,587 at Fox Cities Stadium.

The Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference has had three teams participate in the tournament since it has been held at Fox Cities Stadium. UW-Oshkosh competed in 2003, while UW-Whitewater made back-to-back appearances in 2004 and 2005 (national champions) and UW-Stevens Point was a contestant in 2006.

#####

UW-Platteville Names Frese Head Baseball Coach

RELEASED: Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Platteville, Wis.--The lure of coaching in the premier NCAA Division III baseball conference has brought Eric Frese, the all-time winningest coach at Clarke College, to the University of Wisconsin-Platteville as its interim coach.

He replaces Jamie Sailors, who left after five seasons to become the pitching coach at Purdue University.

"The number one thing that drew me to this job is that this is the best baseball conference in the country," said Frese of the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. "The chance to compete at this level with a program that is growing and has definitely taken some big steps forward in the last few years is a good challenge. We want to get out there with the rest of the big boys. That excites me, that challenge."

Frese (pronounced "freeze") was the coach at Clarke College since 1999, leading the Crusaders to 74 school records, the highest conference finish in school history and the first-ever national ranking. He guided the Crusaders to a 6-4 win over the Pioneers on March 26 when UWP was nationally ranked.

UW-Platteville Athletic Director Mark Molesworth was impressed with Frese's coaching resume and with what he has seen first-hand.

"Eric has an outstanding track record and came highly recommended," he said. "He's had success at Clarke. We

hope with our new facility, with the foundation Jamie Sailors set, and with us making the WIAC playoffs two years ago, Eric is the man to continue that progress and take us to the next level."

Frese will take over a Pioneer program that is coming off the first back-to-back seasons of .500 or better since 1992-93. UW-Platteville was 19-19 in 2006, despite playing all 38 games on the road while the new Kendall Murray Field was under construction.

The new field is scheduled to be completed in mid-October and will be used for the first time in 2007.

"The new facility is a huge drawing power," Frese said. "An on-campus facility is something I haven't had, and I think this will be one of the top fields in the conference when all is said and done. It will definitely help from a recruiting standpoint. We should have some outstanding student-athletes now taking a look at us because of the facility, and that is exciting."

A member of three state championship teams at Norway, Iowa, Frese earned all-state honors in 1991. He played collegiately at Mount Mercy, earning all-conference honors in 1995. Frese earned his bachelor of arts degree in sociology.

Prior to coaching at Clarke, Frese assisted at various Iowa high schools, the Red Oak Red Sox, and Porterville (Calif.) Community College. He also served as a professional scout for the Tampa Bay Devils Rays and was the head coach of the Cedar Rapids team that won the state American Legion tournament.

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Former UW-La Crosse Athlete Called Up by Milwaukee Brewers

RELEASED: Friday, September 1, 2006

Milwaukee, Wis.--Former University of Wisconsin -La Crosse baseball All-America selection Vinny Rottino was called up to the Milwaukee Brewers roster today.

Rottino, 26, will serve as the third-string catcher and can also play the corner infield and outfield positions. Born and raised in Racine, Wis., and originally signed as a nondrafted free agent in February 2003, Rottino batted .420 in August including a four-hit night Wednesday at Triple AAA Nashville.

He is currently tied for eighth in the Pacific Coast League with a .314 batting average with 25 doubles, seven home runs, 42 runs batted in and 12 stolen bases. Rottino played in 85 games at third base for the Sounds this season, 18 at catcher, 17 in the outfield and two at first base.

Rottino was named the 2002 Midwest Region Player of the Year by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers of America. A shortstop for the Eagles, Rottino was selected the 2002 Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) Position Player of the Year after setting single-season school records in at-bats (195), hits (80), runs (57), home runs (15) and doubles (19).

He was an All-Midwest Region First Team selection and All-America First Team pick in 2002 finished his career first in UW-L history in at-bats (587), hits (199), runs (129), doubles (50) and home runs (23). Rottino also established WIAC career records in at-bats and doubles.

Rottino will wear uniform No. 8 with Milwaukee and will be making his Major League debut.

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UW-Platteville's Sailors Takes Purdue Coaching Position

RELEASED: Wednesday, August 16, 2006

Platteville, Wis.--University of Wisconsin-Platteville baseball manager Jamie Sailors has resigned his position to become the pitching coach at Purdue University.

Sailors led UW-Platteville to the first back-to-back .500 seasons or better since 1992-93. The Pioneers were 19-19 in 2006, despite playing all 38 games on the road while the new Kendall Murray Field was under construction. In 2005, the Pioneers were 22-21 and qualified for the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference playoffs for the first time in school history. Once in the tournament, the Pioneers rallied from five down in the ninth inning to beat UW-Oshkosh 7-6.

"I would like to thank the University of Wisconsin-Platteville campus community for all the support of the Pioneer Baseball Program over the past five years," Sailors said. "My personal thanks to Sports Information Director Paul Erickson, Facility Director Curt Fatzinger, the Athletics Program Assistants and Athletic Director Mark Molesworth. I would not have had this great opportunity at UWP if it was not for Head Football Coach Mike Emendorfer who hired me as his Defensive Coordinator over five years ago; so a special thank you to Mike, his family and the Pioneer Football Program.

"I strongly believe I leave the Pioneer Baseball program in much better shape than when I took over in 2002. We were able to develop pride in the our program and accomplished many feats and many of those were for the first time in program history. I will always remember the players who made it happen, David Reifenberger, Mike Finnegan, EJ Zbikowski, Brandon Ihm, Ross Bennett, Jason Watson, Ryan Slaght, etc.; I could go on and on! Thank you to all the players that contributed to our program; without you the program would have never made the strides it has made. The program is going in the right direction, and with the new playing facility it should only continue to improve.

"Lastly, I would like to thank all of the people in the Platteville community who have helped the Pioneer Baseball program as well as my family. My wife, children and I have developed many great friendships with people in this community and that I will sorely miss.

"It is ALWAYS a Great Day to be a Pioneer!!"

A former 13th-round draft choice of the St. Louis Cardinals, Sailors was the head baseball coach at UW-Platteville for five seasons.

The Indiana native will join a Boilermaker team that was 31-27 overall and 15-17 in the Big Ten this spring.

"We wish Jamie good luck at Purdue and thank him for building the Pioneer program into contender status in the WIAC," Molesworth said.

The Pioneers hope to have an interim coach named by the end of the month, the athletic director said. Construction on the new field on the upper portion of campus is progressing on schedule, he added.

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UW-Superior Names Morgan Head Baseball Coach

RELEASED: Friday, August 11, 2006

Superior, Wis.--University of Wisconsin-Superior Athletic Director Steve Nelson has named Edmund Morgan as the new head baseball coach for the Yellowjackets.

Morgan spent the past nine seasons as the assistant baseball coach for the College of St. Scholastica (Minn.), where he coordinated all aspects of recruiting and compiled winning records every season. He also worked for six years as the Assistant Admissions Director at St. Scholastica and will continue his work in admissions at UW-Superior.

Morgan replaces former head coach Chris Vito who spent the last three seasons as the Yellowjacket skipper.

"The Athletic Department, University and community are extremely excited to have coach Morgan on our team," Athletic Director Steve Nelson said. "He brings a wealth of coaching experience to our baseball program, and will build the necessary foundation to compete and win in the always tough Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference."

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